

VLR-3/18/75 NRHP-6/5/75

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Virginia
COUNTY: Fredericksburg (city)
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE 6/5/75

1. NAME

COMMON:
Washington, Mary, House

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Washington, Mary, House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
1200 Charles Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Fredericksburg

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
Seventh (J. Kenneth Robinson)

STATE: Virginia CODE: 51 COUNTY: (in City) CODE: 630

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY c/o Mrs. Levin J. Houston, Directress

OWNER'S NAME:
Mary Washington Branch of the Association of the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities

STREET AND NUMBER:
1200 Charles Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Fredericksburg

STATE:
Virginia

CODE:
51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Municipal Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:
[Blank]

CITY OR TOWN:
Fredericksburg

STATE:
Virginia

CODE:
51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS: (2)

TITLE OF SURVEY:
(1) Historic American Buildings Survey (see continuation sheet #1)

DATE OF SURVEY: 1934 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:
[Blank]

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE:
D.C.

CODE:
11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia

COUNTY: Fredericksburg (city)

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL-APPEARANCE

Located on Charles Street in a residential district of Fredericksburg, the Mary Washington House is an exceptionally long composite frame structure of one-and-one-half and two stories set on a low brick and stone basement. The southern section is the earliest dating from the mid-eighteenth century. The other portions were incorporated later in that century and early in the next. The house faces east and is clad with beaded weatherboards except for the lean-to of the southern section, which is built of brick. Six-over-nine and six-over-six sash are used throughout the house, and all of the windows have louvered blinds. The doorway into the central of the three main sections has a rectangular, leaded-glass transom. Gable roofs cover the southern and central sections, and a gambrel roof covers the northern portion. A pair of gabled dormers lights the southern wing, and shed roof dormers are used on the northernmost one. This latter section also has a central brick chimney, while all the other wings of the house have interior end brick chimneys. Single-story porches stretch across the rear of the central and part of the northern portions of the house.

The plan is a complex one. The southernmost (story-and-a-half) wing has a single cell with a full-width lean-to behind it. The central block is a two-story, single-pile structure with a through-passage containing the stair and principal entry to the south and a large drawing room to the north. This abuts the northern, story-and-a-half wing consisting of a dining room and chamber, with a chimney between, and connected to the main block by a small, secondary entrance vestibule. Behind this section, and slightly offset to the north, is a single-story ell with a dining room, kitchen, and pantry.

Federal-style trim is used throughout the house. The most noteworthy work is in the drawing room of the central block. A wainscot consisting of molded panels under a chair rail decorated with punch-and-dentil work encircles the room. The chimney piece is an elaborate affair consisting of applied-mold, flush-panel pilasters, entablature blocks having a fluted frieze, and an extremely heavily molded mantel shelf. Reeding, punchwork, and Vitruvian scroll moldings enrich the entablature of the spandrel. An overmantel above all of this consists of flush paneled pilasters framing a single, large flush panel, carrying a frieze with fluting in imitation of triglyphs. The whole carries a molded cornice which is continued around the room. The chamber over this, "George Washington's Room," contains a mantel that resembles the drawing room overmantel, featuring paneled pilasters and a fluted "triglyph" frieze, all crowned by a heavily molded shelf with a dentil cornice.

The front room in the southern portion, known as "Mrs. Washington's Best Room," contains a mantel like that in the George Washington room but without the carved enrichment. Over it is an overmantel like that in the drawing room, but again without the enrichment, having a molded rather than a flush, overmantel panel. Molded panel wainscoting completes the decoration here.

In the main entrance hall, the triple-run stair is the only decoration of note. It has a molded handrail, three turned balusters to the tread, simple sawn brackets, and raised-panel side panels. As such, it is out of keeping (see continuation sheet # 2)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet) #2

STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
Fredericksburg (city)	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

7. DESCRIPTION

with the character of the woodwork in the rest of the house and may have been added by the restorationists.

To the rear is a single-cell framed kitchen. It has a gable roof, box cornice, and is covered with weatherboards.

DTU

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian; 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/ History | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | XXXXX | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Mary Washington House, the last home of George Washington's mother, was purchased for her by her eminent son. It was in this house that Washington last saw his mother, and it was here that she died in August, 1789.

Among the earliest recorded owners of the property were Washington's sister and brother-in-law, Betty and Fielding Lewis, who sold the property, apparently with some portion of the present house already standing on it, to Michael Robinson in 1761. In 1772, Washington bought it for his mother, who had lived at Ferry Farm near Fredericksburg since 1739. He did it, as he wrote to Benjamin Harrison, "at her request but at my own expense. . . , that she might be near by sister [Betty] Lewis, her only daughter," who lived close by at Kenmore.

The house has been recognized as a historic shrine ever since Mrs. Washington took up residence there. Visitors to the city throughout the past two centuries have commented upon it. Almost thirty years after her death, for instance, John Gadsby Chapman painted the "Residence of Washington's Mother in Fredericksburg, Va.," now hanging in the National Gallery. The house became the property of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities in 1890. In 1929-30, a careful restoration was undertaken under the direction of architect Philip Stern.

DTU

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Chapman, John Gadsby, "Residence of Washington's Mother in Fredericksburg, Va.," (painting, circa 1813), National Gallery of Art, Washington, D. C.

Christian, Frances Archer and Susanne Williams Massie, Eds. Homes and Gardens in Old Virginia. Richmond: Garrett and Massie, 1962.

"Three Houses in Virginia," Architectural Forum, January, 1937.
 Welton, Carolyn, "Mary Washington's Garden to Be Restored," Richmond News-Leader, May 23, 1968.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA See continuation sheet #3

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1 acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission DATE: March 1975

STREET AND NUMBER:
 221 Governor Street

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: Junius R. Fishburne, Jr.
 Junius R. Fishburne, Jr., Exec. Director
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
 Title: _____

Date: MAR 18 1975

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 6/5/75

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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(Continuation Sheet) #1

STATE	
Virginia	
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

- (2) Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory
1958 Federal

Library of Congress
Washington, D. C. code: 11

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) #3

STATE Virginia	
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(Number all entries)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 8	2, 8, 4, 5, 8, 0	4, 2, 4, 2, 3, 0, 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

USGS 7½' quadrangle, (scale:1:24,000)
Fredericksburg, Va. 1943

MARY WASHINGTON HOUSE, FREDERICKSBURG
UTM References:

18/284580/4242300

